



DIOCESE OF AMARILLO

Office of the Bishop

To the faithful of the Diocese of Amarillo,

August 21, 2022

It has come to my attention recently, that a priest from New York is celebrating the Traditional Latin Mass in a private home in the Diocese of Amarillo, and parishioners from St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Thomas have been invited and some have attended.

We received information Fr. Joseph Noonan, has been in the Diocese of Lubbock around 15 years, and has no faculties. His ordination is in question, and he runs the parish "Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church" in Lubbock. Fr. Noonan is not in communion with the Roman Catholic Church and belongs to a group of 'sedevacantis' (schismatics) which denies the legitimacy of the Pope after Vatican II. Therefore, his 'sacraments' are invalid.

Pope Francis in his letter "Traditionis Custodes" of July 16, 2021 promulgates: "It belongs to the diocesan bishop, as moderator, promoter, and guardian of the whole liturgical life of the particular Church entrusted to him, to regulate the liturgical celebrations of his diocese. Therefore, it is his exclusive competence to authorize the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in his diocese, according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See." (Art. 2) As the Shepherd of the Catholic Diocese of Amarillo, I ask the Roman Catholic flock to not attend Masses said by Fr. Noonan who is "illegitimately ministering" to the Catholic faithful in the diocese of Amarillo and has no faculties to do so. Likewise, I advise to the flock not to engage in the efforts of those who brought Fr. Noonan to this Diocese deceiving Catholic parishioners by inviting them to join this Latin Mass.

Those who attend and add themselves to this community by the law of the Church enter into automatic excommunication 'latae sententiae' by their participation in a schismatic group which is not in communion with the Universal Catholic Church (can.1364). The Faithful Catholic should not attend.

May our Blessed Mother Mary, mother of the Church pray for us to be always free of any apostasy, heresy and schism.

With my pastoral blessing,

+ *Patrick J. Zurek*

✠ Most Rev. Patrick J. Zurek, STL, DD
Bishop of Amarillo